

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of the all too powerful media consolidation. Forcing stations to broadcast something from either left or right is an obvious abuse of power. They don't own the airwaves, the public does. If one side is aired, the other side should receive equal airtime.

This isn't the first time the Sinclair corporate office has compromised the journalistic integrity of its stations. It ordered ABC affiliates not to air a nonpartisan tribute to our fallen U.S. soldiers, fearing the consequences for George W. Bush. It has refused to run a DNC ad that challenged Bush for citing faulty intelligence about Iraq.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.